

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for downloading an application to a card terminal via a network, comprising:
receiving via a network a request to download an application to a particular card terminal;
translating the request into a format corresponding to the particular card terminal; and
electronically transmitting to the particular card terminal a message related to the translated request, upon detecting a particular activity at the card terminal, for use in downloading the application to the card terminal.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request via a web page.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the translating step includes generating a data stream for transmission to the card terminal.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the message upon detecting a command corresponding to closing of a batch at the card terminal.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the message via a dial-up connection.

7. The method of claim 1, further including downloading the application to the card terminal.
8. A method for providing configuration data to a card terminal, comprising:
 - receiving information via a network relating to configuring a particular card terminal;
 - generating from the information configuration data for use in configuring the particular card terminal according to the received information; and
 - electronically transmitting the configuration data to the particular card terminal in order to program the card terminal according to the configuration data.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the information via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the information via a web page.
11. The method of claim 8 wherein the generating step includes generating a data stream for transmission to the card terminal.
12. The method of claim 8 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the configuration data via a dial-up connection.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the receiving step includes receiving as the information one or more of the following: an indication of information to be printed on a receipt at the card terminal; an indication of audio information to be generated by the card terminal; and an indication of visual information to be displayed on the card terminal.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the information from a network connection remote from the card terminal.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting a message to the card terminal relating to triggering of downloading of the configuration data.

16. A method for providing information via a network concerning activity at a card terminal, comprising:

detecting activity at a card terminal;

generating from the activity information for network transmission and display; and

transmitting the information to a particular user at a network connection remote from the card terminal.

17. The method of claim 16, further including performing the detecting, translating, and transmitting steps at a real-time proximate to the detection of the activity.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the detecting step includes detecting the activity via a dial-up connection.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the information via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the information for display in a web page.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the generating step includes translating the activity into a format for display in a screen.

22. The method of claim 16, further including providing as the information one or more of the following: an amount of a purchase at the card terminal; a local time of the purchase; and an identification of a location of the card terminal.

23. An apparatus for downloading of an application to a card terminal via a network, comprising:

a receive module for receiving via a network a request to download an application to a particular card terminal;

a translate module for translating the request into a format corresponding to the particular card terminal; and

a transmit module for electronically transmitting to the particular card terminal a message related to the translated request, upon detecting a particular activity at the card terminal, for use in downloading the application to the card terminal.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the request via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.
25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the request via a web page.
26. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the translate module includes a module for generating a data stream for transmission to the card terminal.
27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting the message upon detecting a command corresponding to closing of a batch at the card terminal.
28. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting the message via a dial-up connection.
29. The apparatus of claim 23, further including downloading the application to the card terminal.
30. An apparatus for providing configuration data to a card terminal, comprising:
a receive module for receiving information via a network relating to configuring a particular card terminal;

a generate module for generating from the information configuration data for use in configuring the particular card terminal according to the received information; and

a transmit module for electronically transmitting the configuration data to the particular card terminal in order to program the card terminal according to the configuration data.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the information via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.

32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the information via a web page.

33. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the generate module includes a module for generating a data stream for transmission to the card terminal.

34. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting the configuration data via a dial-up connection.

35. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving as the information one or more of the following: an indication of information to be printed on a receipt at the card terminal; an indication of audio information to be generated by the card terminal; and an indication of visual information to be displayed on the card terminal.

36. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the information from a network connection remote from the card terminal.

37. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting a message to the card terminal relating to triggering of downloading of the configuration data.

38. An apparatus for providing information via a network concerning activity at a card terminal, comprising:

a detect module for detecting activity at a card terminal;

a generate module for generating from the activity information for network transmission and display; and

a transmit module for transmitting the information to a particular user at a network connection remote from the card terminal.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, further including a module for performing the detecting, translating, and transmitting at a real-time proximate to the detection of the activity.

40. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the detect module includes a module for detecting the activity via a dial-up connection.

41. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting the information via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol network.

42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the transmit module includes a module for transmitting the information for display in a web page.

43. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the generate module includes a module for translating the activity into a format for display in a screen.

44. The apparatus of claim 38, further including a module for providing as the information one or more of the following: an amount of a purchase at the card terminal; a local time of the purchase; and an identification of a location of the card terminal.

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